Lord Winder-mere. You must know. I demand an explanation. Don't hold me, you fool. *[To Cecil Graham.*

"Lord, Darlington. \Aside/ She is here after all!

Lord Winder-mere. Speak, sir! Why is my wife's fan here? Answer me! By Godl I'll search your rooms, and if my wife 's here, I'll-

----------*[Moves.*

Lord Darlington. You shall not search my rooms. You have no right to do so. I forbid you!

Lord Windermere. You scoundrel! I'll not leave your room till I have searched every corner of it! What moves behind that curtain ? *[Rushes towards the czirtain C.*

Mrs. Erlynne. [Enters behind R.} Lord Windermere!

Lord Windermere. Mrs. Eriynne!

[Every one starts and turns round. Lady Windermere slips out from behind the curtain and glides from the room L.

Mrs. Erlynne. I am afraid I took your wife's fan in mistake for my own, when I was leaving your house to-night. I am so sorry.

[Takes fan from him. Lord Windermere looxs at her in contempt. Lord Darlington in mingled astonishment <z«u *anger. Lord Augtistus turns away. The other men smile at each other.*

ACT DROP

FOURTH ACT

SCENE—Same as in Act I

Lady Windermere. [Lying on soja.] How can I tell him? I can't tell him. It would kSl me. I wonder what happened after I escaped from that horrible room. Perhaps she told them the true reason of her being there, and the real meaning of that—fatal fan of mine. Oh, if he knows—how can I look him in the face again? He would never forgive me. *{Touches bell.}* How securely one thinks one lives—out of reach of temptation, sin, folly. And then suddenly—Oh! Life is terrible. It rules us, we do not rule it.

Enter Rosalie R.

Rosalie. Did your ladyship ring for me ?

*Lady Windermere** Yes. Have you found out at what time Lord Windermere came in last night?